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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Military Information from the Bittkau Training Area.

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 19 and 22 May 1951

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 13 June 1951

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

- sketch on Citto.

REMARKS

SOURCE

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Camp Bittkau (K 53/Y 83) was occupied by about 600 troops on 19 May 1951. Craftsmen from Tangerhuetten were working on the camp installations. A wooden shed on the Bittkau-Ringfurth road, about 2 km southwest of Bittkau, was occupied by Soviet soldiers.

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An AT gun manned by 1 lieutenant and 6 BM with black-bordered red epaulets was emplaced on the other side of the road, opposite the shed. Engineer equipment, such as pontoons, boards, and planks, was lying on the bank of the Elbe River near Polte.

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engineer training was observed, however.

No

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Soviet troops with black-epaulets were observed at the engineer training site on the Elbe River near Polte on 22 May. Two units of about 50 soldiers each were seen constructing landing bridges. Engineer equipment of all sorts was dumped near the river bank and in the nearby areas. Two motorboats moved a ferry on the Elbe River while two other motorboats were pulled up on the river bank. More than 100 trucks were seen at the training site. There were also 35 truck trailers loaded with pontoons and 4 trucks loaded with deflated pneumatic boats.

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3. The camp in the woods north of the Bittkau-Cobbel road was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing black epaulets with engineer insignia and 300 to 400 young soldiers wearing red epaulets with engineer insignia. The latter troops were seen receiving basic training.

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25X1A * Comment. For sketch of Camp Bittkau, see Annex.

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25X1B the units at the Bittkau engineer training site on 19 May 1951 are believed to be the unidentified engineer battalion of the 207th Ltz Rifle Div from Tangermuende; the 890th Indop Engr Bn of the LXIX Ltz Rifle Corps from

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Gardelegen or Stendal; the unidentified Gds engineer battalion of the 19th Gds Mecz Div; and a bridge construction unit, probably of the IX Ltz Rifle Corps, from Schwerin. [redacted]. The total strength of all these units would be 800 to 1,000. This hypothesis is vaguely corroborated by a report [redacted] that about 1,000 troops were unloaded from five trains in Tangerhuetten on 23 and 24 April 1951. [redacted] On 23 April 1951, too, the bridge construction unit carried in Schwerin was reported to have left the post. [redacted]

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1 Annex: One sketch on ditto.

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